

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/725,082	MOODY ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Michelle (Shelley) Clement	3641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 3/17/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,24-29 and 45-49.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date ____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____.
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____.	7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Steinberger on 5/30/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 6, delete "a plurality of" and insert --two--;

Line 7, delete "plurality of";

Line 15, delete "plurality of".

In claim 24, line 3, delete "plurality of".

In claim 25, line 4, delete "plurality of".

In claim 26, line 2, delete "plurality of".

In claim 27, line 3, delete "plurality of".

In claim 29, line 2, delete "plurality of".

In claim 46, line 4, delete "plurality of".

In claim 47, line 1, replace "plurality of" with --two--, delete "solely"

Line 2, delete "two legs" and insert --leg-- after "each".

In Claim 48, line 1, replace "a" after "using" with --an ergonomic--,

Line 3, after "firearm;" insert

--the fore grip comprising a top end and a bottom end and cut out there through;

a mount for attaching the top end of the fore grip to a firearm;
a vertical sliding piston inside the fore grip;
two legs coupled to the sliding piston;
a catch-lock that catches and locks the legs and the sliding piston in a closed position inside the fore grip;
a spring-loaded fulcrum release mechanism for releasing the catch-lock;
a depressible tension plate on an outside surface;
and an expansion spring positioned between the legs; wherein the sliding piston, the catch-lock, the legs, the spring-loaded fulcrum release mechanism and the expansion spring between the legs are all located and concealed inside of the fore grip in a closed position;--;

Line 4, replace “a” with --the-- (3 occurrences);

Line 10, replace “weapon” with --firearm--.

In Claim 49, line 2, delete “an expansion spring for”.

Clean Version of Claim 48

A method for using an ergonomic fore grip with concealable and collapsible bipod legs having a spring-loaded fulcrum release mechanism comprising the steps of:

mounting a fore grip to a lower surface of a firearm;
the fore grip comprising a top end and a bottom end and cut out there through;
a mount for attaching the top end of the fore grip to a firearm;
a vertical sliding piston inside the fore grip;

two legs coupled to the sliding piston;

a catch-lock that catches and locks the legs and the sliding piston in a closed position inside the fore grip;

a spring-loaded fulcrum release mechanism for releasing the catch-lock;

a compressible tension plate on an outside surface;

and an expansion spring positioned between the legs; wherein the sliding piston, the catch-lock, the legs, the spring-loaded fulcrum release mechanism and the expansion spring between the legs are all located and concealed inside of the fore grip in a closed position;

depressing the tension plate in the spring-loaded fulcrum release mechanism to release the spring-piston that drives the bipod legs downward to release the legs from confinement within the fore grip;

expanding the bipod legs outward beneath the firearm to a fully deployed position;

supporting the fully deployed legs on a surface;

gripping the fore grip; and

firing the firearm that is now supported in a stabilized position.

2. Claims 1, 24-29, and 45-49 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle (Shelley) Clement whose telephone number is 571.272.6884. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 571.272.6873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


MICHELLE CLEMENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER